

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Pinwheel PPL**  
**Range Improvement Project**

Environmental Assessment (EA)  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0007-EA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

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BLM



**LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

T.09S.,R.57E. Sec. 21,22,23,26,27,28,33,34,35

Carter County, Montana

T.58N.,R66W., Sec.25; T.58N.,R65W.,Sec.19,30

Crook County, Wyoming

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Bureau of Land Management proposes to design, contract and inspect, upon completion, the installation of a pipeline. The permittee would be required to furnish the pumping systems, overflow systems and a minimum of a 1,000 gallon livestock water tank for each livestock watering site. If any portion of the project crosses private or state lands the permittee will be responsible for contributed funds prior to letting any contract. The BLM would disburse funds for the installation of pipe and apertures for this project. The selected routes have been approved by needed specialists. Blading may occur along pipeline routes to ensure proper bury depth of pipe. This would also allow access for maintenance. Water rights would be filed by BLM upon completion of well and tank locations as specified in the cooperative agreement.

Construction activities will not occur between December 1 and March 31 to minimize impacts to wintering big game species, particularly mule deer and antelope. Construction activities will not occur between March 1 to August 1 to minimize impacts to sage grouse breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing activities (March 1 to June 15); ferruginous hawk and other raptor nesting activities (March 1 to August 1), and other migratory bird species and associated nesting activities (April 15 to July 15).

**Pin Wheel Pipeline:** The proposed action is to design, contract, inspect and construct a pipeline at allocation shown on the attached map. The pipeline is approximately 54,900 feet in length and will be constructed with 2 inch HDPE SDR 11 pipe on public land, private land and state lands. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 5 to 6 feet. Contractor will pre-rip the line, and then come back one final time, rip and lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the contractor will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves. The pre-rip is necessary so the contractor will know where large boulders or rock ledges are. If the equipment cannot pull through these areas the contractor will come back with the backhoe and break through these areas to achieve proper bury depth. At these areas disturbance will be 15 feet wide. Total disturbance along pipeline route will be approximately 4 feet wide except at points where apertures are installed.

The water to supply the pipeline will come from a private well located at T.58N. R65W. Sec.27 SWNE; in Crook County, Wyoming. The well produces approximately 20 gallons per minute. At watering location stub riser assemblies will be installed and a trench dug for overflows. Overflows will be utilized to drain tanks at the end of each grazing season.

This pipeline will cross public land, state land and private land. Wildlife escape ramps will be required in tanks on public lands.